

ILLNESS AND DEATH OF MICHAEL WATTERS.

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RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 16 July 1884 ;—for,

COPY " of OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS on the above Subject, viz., MEDICAL  
REPORTS, quoted from by the Solicitor General for *Ireland* in the course  
of the Debate on this Case, which took place in the House of Commons on  
the 16th day of May 1884."

(*Mr. Solicitor General for Ireland.*)

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Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
16 July 1884.

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## ILLNESS AND DEATH OF MICHAEL WATTERS, A CONVICT.

COPIES of OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS on the above Subject, viz., MEDICAL REPORTS, quoted from by the Solicitor General for *Ireland* in the course of the Debate on this Case, which took place in the House of Commons on the 16th May 1894.

## — No. 1. —

REPORT of Dr. *O'Keeffe*.

Mountjoy Prison, 8 October 1883.

CONVICT Michael Watters, A. 698, under treatment in hospital since 7th June last, when he was admitted for a gastric and febrile attack. His condition since I have taken medical charge, 1st August, has been so critical as not to permit of his removal from here, and now his case has become so aggravated as to place his life in imminent danger. His removal would be impossible.

(signed) *P. O'Keeffe*, M.D.,

P. Hay, Esq., Governor.

Medical Officer.

## — No. 2. —

REPORT of Dr. *O'Keeffe*.

Mountjoy Prison, 13 October 1883.

CONVICT Michael Watters continues in a most critical condition, and I consider it desirable to have a consultation with Dr. Young and Dr. Kelly, who saw him in early stages of his present illness.

(signed) *P. O'Keeffe*, M.D.,

Medical Officer.

## — No. 3. —

JOINT REPORT of Drs. *Kelly*, *Young*, and *O'Keeffe*.

Mountjoy Prison, 14 October 1883.

WE have this day carefully examined Convict Michael Watters, and find him in a very exhausted condition. He is suffering from ulcerative disease of the intestines and chronic peritonitis, consequent on inflammation which has continued for about three months.

We consider his present condition most critical, and, notwithstanding the most unremitting and careful treatment, we are of opinion that there is little hope of his recovery.

(signed) *F. G. Kelly*, F.R.C.S.I., &c.

*J. W. Young*, M.D.,

Medical Officer, Grangegorman Convict Prison.

*P. O'Keeffe*, M.D.,

Medical Officer, Mountjoy Prison.

— No. 4. —

## REPORT of Dr. O'Keeffe.

Sir,

Mountjoy Prison, 3 May 1884.

IN compliance with your directions, I have the honour to submit a short statement on the state of health of deceased Convict Michael Watters, during the time he was under my care in the hospital of this prison.

On the 1st August 1883 I took over medical charge of this prison. Convict Watters was then in hospital suffering from chronic peritonitis and debility; he was weak and delicate, and continued in this condition until the 19th August, when he commenced slightly to improve, and so continued until the 7th October. For a few days of this time he was able, with assistance, to get on his clothes and sit up in bed for short periods.

On the 7th October he again began to fail, and continued gradually to sink until the 22nd October, when he expired.

During all this time he never left hospital; he received every treatment and medical attention demanded by the gravity and necessities of his case.

I had the advantage of consultations with Dr. Young; under whose care he had been from the commencement of the illness, until the 1st August; and with Dr. Kelly, who had also seen the prisoner with Dr. Young prior to my taking charge.

At no time while under my care could the prisoner be removed without endangering his life, nor was the case made dangerous by confinement in the hospital here. The disease was formidable and dangerous from its commencement, and the prisoner received as much care and attention in this, as he could in any other hospital.

W. S. B. Kaye, Esq.,  
&c. &c.,  
Dublin Castle.

I am, &c.  
(signed) — P. O'Keeffe, M.D.

— No. 5. —

## REPORT of Dr. Young.

Sir,

Grangegorman Convict Prison,  
4 May 1884.

WITH reference to the death of Convict Michael Watters, I beg to report, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, that while undergoing the probation period of his sentence, he complained to me of constipation on 6th June last, for which I treated him, and desired him to come to me the following day if not better.

On the 7th I saw him again, and finding that he was suffering from intestinal disturbance, I immediately admitted him to the hospital, and put him under treatment.

Finding, however, after the lapse of a few days that the illness assumed a serious aspect, I applied to the Prisons Board for a consultation, which was immediately sanctioned, and I accordingly got Surgeon Kelly, of Jervis-street Hospital, to examine him with me: we came to the conclusion that his case was a very serious one and likely to terminate fatally.

The prisoner was not then nor at any subsequent period of his illness in a fit state to be removed from the prison with safety, nor could further confinement in the prison during the time of his illness affect his case, or endanger his life, as he was treated in every respect with as much care and attention as he would be in any other hospital.

I may

I may mention that Dr. Kelly (having taken a great interest in the case) saw him with me on several occasions, and to his surprise and mine the prisoner rallied for a few days, and I began to entertain some hope that he might gain sufficient strength to enable me to recommend his discharge from the prison, but he again relapsed, and from thenceforth his case became quite hopeless.

It is right that I should state that Dr. Kelly, myself, and Dr. O'Keeffe, saw him in consultation at a later period of his illness, when we unanimously came to the conclusion that his illness would terminate fatally.

I am, &c.  
(signed) J. W. Young, M.D.,  
Medical Officer.

P. S.— I wish to add that previous to the 6th of June Watters did not complain of illness.

J. W. Y.

ILLNESS AND DEATH OF RICHARD  
WATSON.

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COPY of General Discussion on the above  
Subject, viz., *William Watson*, quoted from  
by the Solicitor General for Ireland in the  
course of the Debate on this Case, which took  
place in the House of Commons on 10th May  
1884.

(*Ed. Solicitor General for Ireland.*)

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